

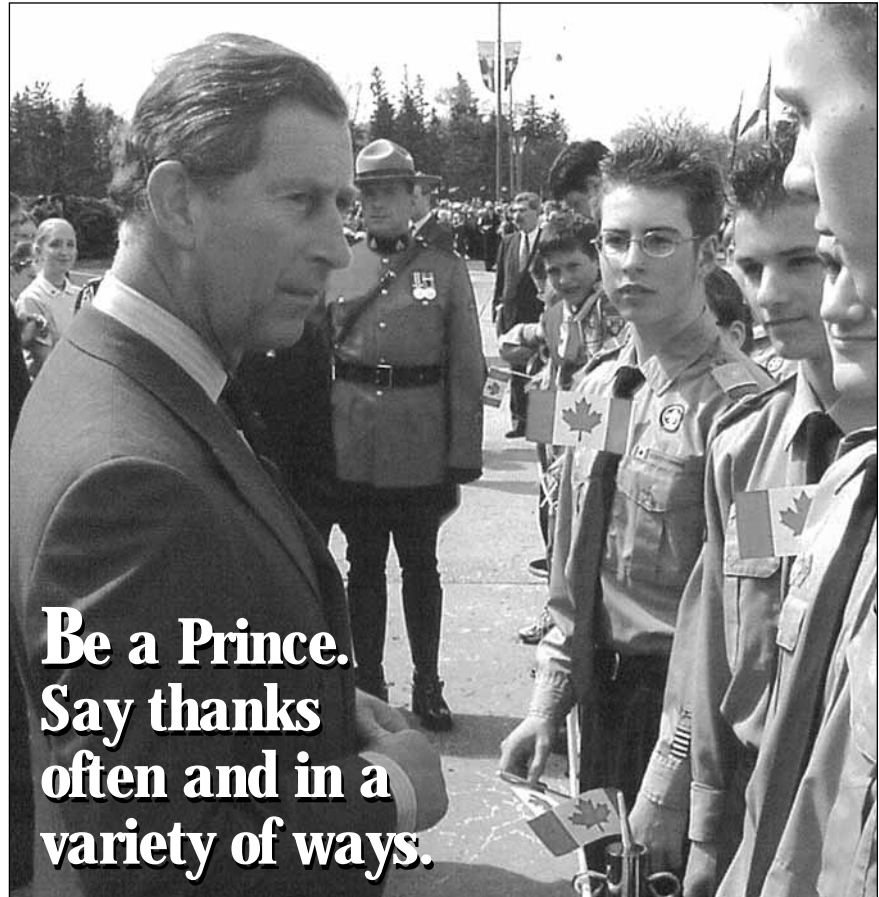
How Do We Honour Hardworking Youth?

A Tip Sheet for Leaders, Group and Area Commissioners

by Gillian de Graauw

Every week, Scouters across the country are blessed to receive help and dedicated service from Activity Leaders, Scouters in Training or Rovers. Recently, some leaders asked me what they could do to show their appreciation to these deserving youth and thereby inspire them to continue in their tireless service work. Below is a list of tips and ideas that I feel would make any youth feel special and appreciated. I encourage all adults in a leadership role to use these measures in an effort to maintain youth service through recognition of their commitment. Remember that youth are the future leaders of this Movement!

- Recognize youth with the National Youth Award (available Fall 2007). Watch for further information in future *Leader* articles.
- Nominate deserving youth for the Centennial Medal, a national award being given only in 2007-2008 to honour hard work and dedication towards our Movement.
- Have an Awards night in which you recognize deserving youth with certificates, plaques or gifts created by your groups, areas or councils.
- Write letters of recommendation for scholarship or employment purposes for older youth.
- Write an article or letter of thanks and submit to the *Leader* magazine or community publications to honour hardworking youth.
- Nominate youth for local community or provincial awards for their continuous service.



**Be a Prince.
Say thanks
often and in a
variety of ways.**

- Take youth out for a celebration in which your group, council, etc. pays their expenses. This celebration could range from bowling to supper to a games night. This is also great to encourage team building!
- Notify schools, particularly for high school students, of youth service as it may be used towards grades for health, physical education or religion based classes.
- Phone the youth's house and personally congratulate them on their success and also take time to explain to the parent how hard the child has worked, and what they have accomplished within the Movement. A little praise can go a long way!
- Have a night in which the youth from the section make thank you cards for the youth (and of course other adult leaders) and then hand them out while each youth comments on what the person's dedication has meant to them.
- At a group camp, dedicate a campfire or other special ceremony in honour of the youth's service towards younger Scouting sections.
- Make a monument, statue, etc. that will be a permanent fixture at a camp and be dedicated in honour of youth who serve Scouting.

The possibilities are endless. I hope these suggestions have helped all of you to realize that youth just want to be recognized and hear the words "thank you", just as adults do. In the future, remember to honour all those who serve our youth members through thank you initiatives and therefore keep the spirit and dedication of all Scouters, young and old, strong! X

– Gillian de Graauw is the Deputy Executive Commissioner for Youth and has been involved with the Scouting Movement, in the senior sections, for the past thirteen years.

Photo: Scouts Canada's Archives